Chapter 66

AFTER THAT, TWO MONTHS HAD ALREADY PASSED.
YOSHI-NII?
SASUKE?
CAN YOU WAIT A MINUTE...
DELIVER THIS TO SAIZOU.
GIVE HIM THE REPORT FROM CHIYO.
A LETTER? WHAT IS IT?
THIS IS DATA ABOUT THE SCARLET HOUJU
DIDN'T YOU COME HERE, SASUKE,
TO RETURN SOMETHING SHOUGO-SAMA WAS KEEPING?

DATA
ABOUT THAT FLOWER HAS LEAKED.
SHOUKO-SAMA LEFT THESE DOCUMENTS BEHIND.
THE PAINKILLER THAT WAS HARVESTED FROM THE SCARLET HOUJU APPEARED
TO HAVE AN EFFECT LIKE MORPHINE, BUT IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE A SICK PATIENT TO DOSE THE ADDICTION DIDN'T SEEM TROUBLESOME IT LOWERED THE PAIN THRESHOLD OF THE BRAIN AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM
THE PAIN RELIEF'S EFFECT WAS JUDGED TO BE TEN TIMES THAT OF MORPHINE IF IT COULD BE MASS-PRODUCED,
THEY COULD MAKE A LOT OF MONEY.
IF, ON THE OTHER HAND
IT WAS UNDERNEATH THE RESIDENCE, THOSE TAKING CARE OF TAYUYA-HIME COULD KEEP IT FROM THE LOW-RANKING NINJAS WHO TENDED THE FLOWER GARDEN PEOPLE WITH HEALTHY BODIES COULD COME AND GO FROM THE FLOWER GARDEN
BUT THEY COULD NOT ESCAPE DEATH FROM THE POISON THERE
THE PREVIOUS GENERATION AND YUURI'S FATHER
WERE LIKE SHOUGO-SAMA.

REGARDING THE SCARLET HOUJU, THE OSHIRO WERE IN BUSINESS WITH THOSE INVOLVED IN SUPPLY AND DEMAND, AND WERE RECIEVING A LOT FROM THEM
FORMERLY, MEDICAL PERSONNEL REQUESTED TO STUDY IT, THEN, BEFORE THE WAR, THE MILITARY ALSO WANTED TO STUDY IT. DUE TO THE COST OF THOSE STUDIES, THE OSHIRO FAMILY WAS THOUGHT TO BE FINANCIALLY WEAK.
AND THE ONE SAID TO BE IMMORTAL, TAYUYA-HIME
THE LIVING PEOPLE WHO KNEW OF HER EXISTENCE WERE PROBABLY THE MAIN REASON THE STUDY CONTINUED
I DON'T KNOW
IF THEY THOUGHT ABOUT THE RISK OF THE METHOD OF CULTI-VATION
ALSO
THE BLOODY STORY WAS TOO CONNECTED TO THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE VILLAGE IF THE TRADITIONS CONTINUED IN THAT PLACE

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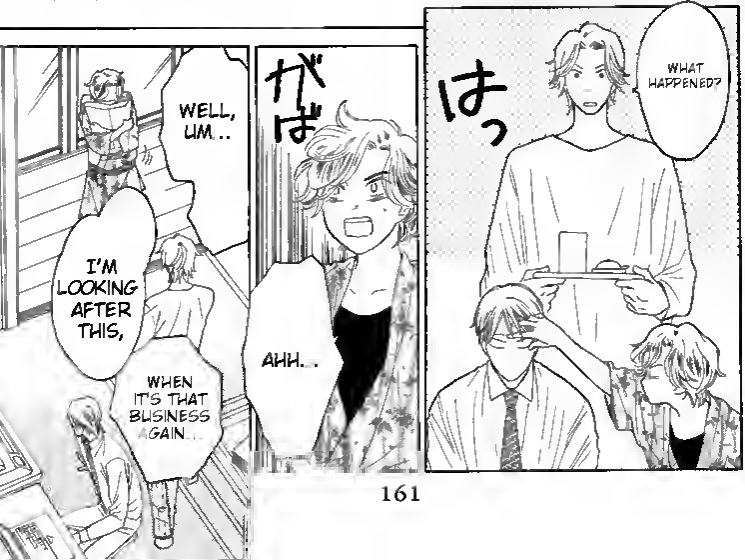
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WHAT HAPPENED?
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AHH...
WELL, UM...
I'M LOOKING AFTER THIS,
WHEN IT'S THAT BUSINESS GAIN...

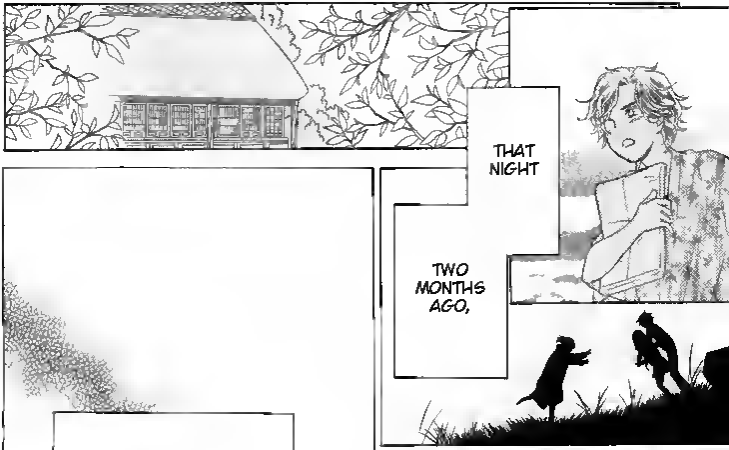
YOSHI-NII, YOU'VE REACHED YOUR LIMIT.
AH..
WHAT?
YEAH
IT'S AWKWARD
SUCH AN AGREEABLE GUY
YOU WON'T ALLOW ME TO DECIEVE HIM.
IT'S A BIT OF A HASSLE
SASUKE, HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
YOUR BROW IS CREASED

SASUKE? ?
ガラッ
LIM...
...NOW
IT'S SPRING.
SEE YOU LATER.

AFTER THIS, WE MUST FIGHT FOR THAT...
PEOPLE WILL SURVIVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH. THE FLOWER GARDEN WILL DISAPPEAR AS WELL. THE SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED.
OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE OSHIRO'S DARK SIDE...

...WHAT IS THE MEANING OF WHAT MADAM DID?
THE WORLD SHOULD NOT ENCOUNTER THAT PLACE.
WE CANNOT MAKE THIS WORLD A SECOND TIME.
THE GREATER MEANING WAS NOT TOLD TO THE MEDIA.

IF THE WORLD DOES NOT KNOW, THEY CAN SMILE.

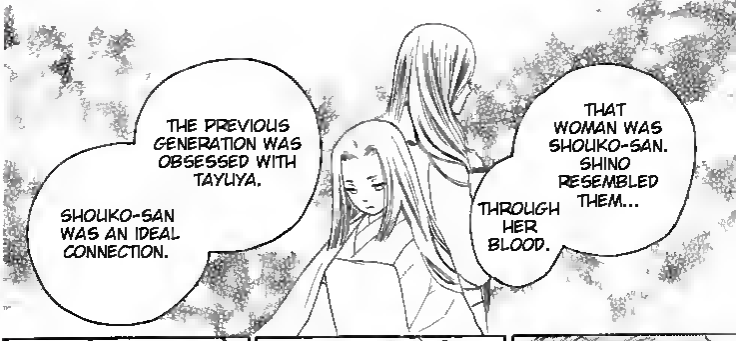


AT THE NINJA'S WISHES, THE KUNOICHI AND THE MISHIMA COMBINED, WITH CHIYO AS THE MEDIATOR. AFTERWARDS, THEY AGREED TO OPPOSE THE OSHIRO'S CHIEF VASSALS AND JOINED FORCES.

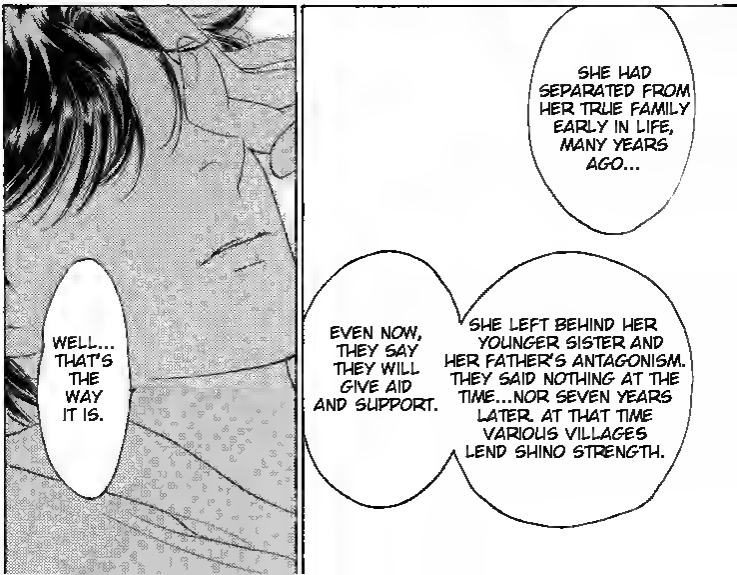
THEY WERE SUSPICIOUS OF THE OSHIRO. THE VILLAGERS' AGITATION WAS ROUSED OVER THE MISHIMA'S SERVILITY TOWARDS SHINOBU, CAUSING MAYHEM.
HOWEVER, IT BECAME THE SEED OF THE SUSPICION OF THE OSHIRO'S PREVIOUS GENERATIONS.
THEY OBEYED THE OSHIRO'S CHIEF VASSALS AND NINJA GROUPS BECAUSE SHINOBU'S OPPOSITION HAD DEEPENED.
ALSO, THE WILL OF THE VILLAGERS SOLIDIFIED AGAIN, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEY FOLLOWED SHINOBU.
THE AGED BECAME FAMILIAR WITH OLD TRADITIONS. THEY DID NOT WISH FOR CHANGE.
HOWEVER, THE ADHERENCE TO SURROUNDING THE ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE WILL NOT CONTINUE FOR LONG.
THIS WAY IS BECAUSE OF SHINO...
IF THAT'S SO, THEN IN JUST A MOMENT, YOU WILL SEE THREE SONS OUTSIDE.

AH,
YOU CAME TO WAIT AND SEE DURING YOUR REST...
YEAH...
WHAT WAS IT?
...THE KUNOICHI WILL GIVE ASSISTANCE TO THAT HOUSE.
WON'T THE REMAINING VILLAGERS NEED PLACES TO LIVE?
AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE I WANT TO REMAIN NEARBY TO PROTECT HER.
TELL HER I AM HER TRUE FATHER. SHE MUST REMAIN AT THE ESTATE
FOR NOW, BECAUSE I AM AN OUTSIDER TO THE OSHIRO

IS THIS A LAUGHING MATTER?!
HEY... ARE YOU TRYING TO ENDANGER THEIR POSITION?
HA HA TO EVERY-THING
...WERE YOU LISTENING?
WHAT KIND OF THING IS THAT?
ORIGIN-ALLY...
SHOUKO-SAN'S MOTHER WAS FROM THE OSHIRO.
THE TRUE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHINO AND ME IS NOT COMMON KNOWLEDGE, SO THE OSHIRO CHIEF VASSALS WOULDN'T KNOW.
THAT PLACE WILL NOT BE BLAMED WHEN THAT CHILD IS ACCEPTED AS A CHILD OF THE OSHIRO.
A FAMILY PREDE-SESSOR'S YOUNGER SISTER
...WAS THE AUNT OF THE NEXT GENER-ATION.
THE DIRECT LINE.


THE PREVIOUS GENERATION WAS OBSESSED WITH TAYUYA.
SHOUKO-SAN WAS AN IDEAL CONNECTION.
THAT WOMAN WAS SHOUKO-SAN. SHINO RESEMBLED THEM...
THROUGH HER BLOOD.

SHE WAS ALONE EXCEPT FOR HER OLDER BROTHER, WHO WORKED AS THE BOARD CHAIRMAN FOR SEITOKU UNIVERSITY.
BOTH OF SHOUKO-SAN'S PARENTS HAD ALREADY PASSED AWAY, BUT...
HEY...


SHE HAD SEPARATED FROM HER TRUE FAMILY EARLY IN LIFE, MANY YEARS AGO...
SHE LEFT BEHIND HER YOUNGER SISTER AND HER FATHER'S ANTAGONISM. THEY SAID NOTHING AT THE TIME...NOR SEVEN YEARS LATER. AT THAT TIME VARIOUS VILLAGES LEND SHINO STRENGTH.
EVEN NOW, THEY SAY THEY WILL GIVE AID AND SUPPORT.
WELL... THAT'S THE WAY IT IS.

THAT CHILD WILL RECIEVE ASSISTANCE FROM MANY.
IT'S ALRIGHT.
WON'T YOU...
NEED TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF?
SO THAT SHINO CAN BECOME...
HAPPY.
SHE WOULD BE ANGRY IF I DIDN'T SEE IT FOR MYSELF.
SHE WOULD SLAP ME IN THE FACE AGAIN.

SHINOBU-SAMA?

EXCUSE ME!
SORRY, SORRY.
COME IN, SAIZOU.

SORRY
...BECAUSE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN THE YARD ARE BEAUTIFUL, I ACCIDENTALLY LEFT IT OPEN.
I'M SORRY
.. WAS THERE SOME-THING YOU CAME FOR?
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
THERE IS A REPORT FROM CHIYO.
THEY HEARD FROM AN INTERN ON THE ESTATE. A FEW DAYS AGO, YUURI VANISHED.
STILL, I WANT TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR MORE NEWS.
DO I HAVE YOUR LEAVE?
SO...

TOMORROW I WILL HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH SHOU-NII-SAMA.
YES
.....
DO YOU FEEL BITTER TOWARDS YUURI...?
HARBORING A GRUDGE WOULD NOT TAKE AWAY MY SADNESS.
...IS THAT AN UNFAIR REPLY?

NO.
IN THAT CHAOS...

SOMETHING FRIGHTENING IS HAPPENING.
SHIVERING...
SURPRISE.
THE MEMORY OF MY PARENTS' DEATHS RETURNED.
TO FLEE FROM BEING ALONE
CLOSING THE MEMORIES
IF I RECOGNIZED THE FEELING, I DID NOT HAVE THE SKILL TO PROTECT MYSELF.
...I WAS WARM
...CLINGING TO THAT WARMTH
AT THAT TIME, I FORCED MY FEAR ONTO SOMEONE ELSE.

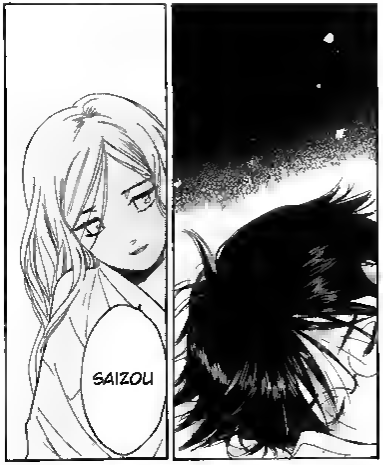
I ALREADY
I DON'T WANT TO FLEE A SECOND TIME.
THAT PERSON DID NOT BLAME ME FOR THAT THE FIRST TIME.
WHAT IS
THE MEANING OF YOUR REPLY?

THIS BACK HAS BEEN A HEAVY WEIGHT.

FROM NOW ON, GIVE HALF OF IT TO ME.
THIS SOUL
I LOVE
THIS BACK OF YOURS.

I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU.
.....
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?

I LOVE YOU.
.....
DON'T AVERT YOUR EYES.


SAIZOU

SAIZOU,
LET'S GO OUTSIDE

BEFORE, THIS VILLAGE WAS NOT A WARM PLACE TOWARDS ME.
IT'S STRANGE
A LETTER?
FROM HARUMI AND KENZOU.
BUT NOW THEY SEE ME DIFFERENTLY...
WELL
IT SEEMS TO BE A GOOD THING.

SAIZOU
THANK YOU
FOR KEEPING YOUR PROMISE.
IF I BECAME ALONE, SURELY I WOULD WEEP LIKE SAIZOU.

THEREFORE,
SAIZOU
BECAME STRONG
WITH A LOT OF
EFFORT.

SURELY, HE WILL PROTECT ME FOR A LONG TIME...

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